

SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223

Official Minutes
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
December 16, 2024

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON,
WITH PUBLIC AVAILABILITY PROVIDED VIA ZOOM.

1. Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Valdivia at 6:02 p.m., Monday, December 16, 2024, at the office of the Agency. President Valdivia gave the invocation, and Director Wargo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

President Valdivia requested a roll call.

Board Present:

Mickey Valdivia, President
Chander Letulle, Vice-President
Robert Ybarra, Treasurer
Kevin Walton, Secretary
Blair M Ball, Director
Sarah Wargo, Director
Larry Smith, Director

Staff Present:

Lance Eckhart, General Manager
Thomas Todd, Jr., Chief Financial Officer
Maricela Cabral, Exec. Asst. /Clerk of the Board
Emmett Campbell, Sr. Water Resources Planner
Matt Howard, Operations Manager

Consultant Present:

Holland Stewart, Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

3. Adoption and Adjustment of Agenda

General Manager Eckhart requested that Item 8.B be moved to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate former board member Ron Duncan. On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Secretary Walton, it was moved to adjust the meeting agenda by placing Item 8B—Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-16, honoring Ron Duncan for 12 years of dedicated service on the Board of Directors of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency—immediately following Item 4, Public Comment.

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Wargo, Ybarra, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None
Absent: None
Motion passed 7-0.

4. Public Comment

Joyce McIntyre, Board President of the Yucaipa Valley Water District, extended a warm welcome to newly appointed Board Director Sarah Wargo and expressed gratitude to former Board Member Ron Duncan.

Daniel Slawson, Board President of Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, congratulated Board Member Wargo on her election and thanked Ron Duncan for his service and contributions to the water community.

Alberto Sanchez, former Mayor of the City of Banning, extended a warm welcome to Board Director Sarah Wargo and thanked the Board for their work and emphasized the importance of water resources.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

B. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-16, Honoring Ron Duncan for 12 Years of Dedicated Service on the Board of Directors of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

General Manager Eckhart thanked former board member Duncan for his contributions, including regional collaboration, groundwater stability efforts, and promoting solar boat races.

Deja McNair, representative for Senator Ochoa-Bogh's office, thanked Mr. Duncan for his years of dedicated service and presented him with a proclamation.

Mr. Duncan expressed gratitude and appreciation and is looking forward to new opportunities.

On a motion by President Valdivia, seconded by Director Smith, the board approved Resolution No 2024-16, honoring Ron Duncan for 12 years of dedicated service on the Board of Directors of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency.

Approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Wargo, Ybarra, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion passed 7-0.

President Valdivia called for a recess, and reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Approve Minutes of the December 2, 2024, Regular Meeting of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Board of Directors.

On a motion by Treasurer Ybarra, seconded by Vice President Letulle, the board approved the Consent Calendar as presented.

Approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Smith, Walton, Ybarra, Letulle, Ball, Valdivia

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Wargo

Motion passed 6-0-1.

6. Reports

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager, Lance Eckhart reported on the following:

1. Various meetings while in attendance at the ACWA Fall Conference:
 - a) AVEK
 - b) Sites/SBVWD
 - c) United Water Conservation District
 - d) Provost & Pritchard
 - e) Westside District Water Authority
 - f) Gwyn-Mohr Tully – Zanjero, Inc.
 - g) Best, Best & Krieger Dinner
2. Provided update on Delta Conveyance Project
3. Provided update on Colorado Aqueduct Memorandum of Understanding with Metropolitan Water District
4. Update on Kern County

B. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel Stewart had no report.

7. Informational Presentations and Updates:

A. 2024 Retrospective

General Manager Eckhart provided a comprehensive overview of the Agency's key achievements and highlights for 2024 included moving 18,000 acre-feet of water, expanding the agency's boundary, budget overhaul, installation of the Earth Cam system, successful maintenance of the tax rate, and establishing the San Geronio Pass Foundation.

General Manager Eckhart underscored the value of public information and outreach programs, which have received positive community feedback. He discussed the agency's involvement in local initiatives such as the County Line Road project which secured a \$3.1 million grant, the solar boat races, along with collaborations with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District.

Additionally, he highlighted the recognition of George Jorritsma's' contributions and the success of the gap funding program in enhancing local water infrastructure. General Manager Eckhart concluded by reaffirming the critical role of partnerships and strategic planning in shaping the agency's future.

The Board conveyed their appreciation for General Manager Eckhart's leadership, staff's dedicated efforts and the successful outcomes of various initiatives.

B. Water Conditions Report

Operations Manager Matt Howard provided the water conditions report reflecting on the latest data which included highlighting significant rainfall in the Northern Sierras, positioning the water year ahead of 2023's wet year. Mr. Howard said storage levels at Lake Oroville have risen, and the San Luis Reservoir is aggressively being filled, increasing capacity from 45% to 68%. Snowpack levels are strong at 107% of the average for this date, with additional rainfall and snowfall expected in Northern California. These favorable conditions are bolstering water supply allocations and supporting the agency's strategic planning.

Mr. Howard also reviewed the agency's water supply portfolio, with a total of 25,500 acre-feet available, including carryover and current year allocations. Local deliveries for November totaled 1,536 acre-feet, with December projections at 1,800 acre-feet, leaving a carryover balance of approximately 1,300 acre-feet and minimal spill risk at the San Luis Reservoir. Maintenance of recharge facilities, including a planned East Branch Extension shutdown from January 2 to February 3, is on schedule, ensuring infrastructure readiness for continued operations. He concluded by emphasizing the agency's strong water conditions and readiness to address future challenges.

8. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Review of Electronic Signature Policy

Chief Financial Officer Thomas Todd, Jr., reviewed the electronic signature policy, noting its efficiency and legal counsel's approval. Director Smith suggested exploring the possibility of electronic signing for checks to expedite the process. The Board discussed the electronic signature policy and determined the item would be revisited for an amendment if necessary.

9. Reports - Directors and Committee Report

Board members reported attending the following:

- December 3-5, 2024, ACWA Fall Conference (Smith, Valdivia, Walton, Ybarra)
- December 4-5, 2024, GOV AI Coalition Summit (Letulle)
- December 9, 2024, Joint Sites Reservoir Committee Meeting (Ball, Letulle, Valdivia)
- December 10, 2024, Board Members Handbook Committee Meeting (Ball, Letulle, Walton)
- December 10, 2024, Banning City Council Meeting (Ball, Valdivia, Wargo, Ybarra)
- December 10, 2024, Metropolitan Water District Special Joint Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meeting (Smith)
- December 11, 2024, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board Meeting (Ball)
- December 12, 2024, San Geronio Pass Economic Development Alliance Meeting (Smith)

Director Ball remarked on Metropolitan Water District's decision to proceed with the Delta Conveyance Project. He also extended his appreciation to SGPWA staff for the thoughtful Agency Christmas card.

Vice President Letulle reported that the City of Banning had conducted a pilot trial of Madison AI, a program with actionable potential. He indicated plans to discuss the possibility of a no-cost pilot with staff, recommending further evaluation of its potential benefits to the agency.

Director Wargo expressed her deep gratitude and honor to serve alongside her fellow board members on the dais.

Director Valdivia welcomed Director Wargo to the Board of Directors. He also expressed gratitude to SGPWA's consultants and CV Strategies for helping to take the agency to a different level in 2024.

With the floor granted by President Valdivia, Alberto Sanchez addressed the board, encouraging their attendance at Banning City Council meetings to support ongoing projects.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

Secretary Walton recommended engaging with Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District as they undergo a comprehensive review of their policies and procedures, suggesting an opportunity to assess and address any gaps in SGPWA's own policies and procedures.

11. Announcements

President Valdivia reviewed the following announcements:

- A. Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, December 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Office closed in observance of Christmas and New Year's Holiday's, December 23-January 1, 2025
- C. Regular Board Meeting, January 6, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
- D. Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 20, 2025
- E. Regular Board Meeting, January 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, President Valdivia adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, January 6, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Kevin Walton, Secretary of the Board

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